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## ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a composition comprising at least two synthetic, cooperative oligonucleotides, each comprising a region complementary to one of tandem, non-overlapping regions of a target single-stranded nucleic acid, and each further comprising a non-nucleotidic binding partner at a terminus of each of the oligonucleotides, such that the binding partners can interact with each other to form a stable complex. Also disclosed are dimeric structures, ternary complexes, pharmaceutical formulations, and methods utilizing the cooperative oligonucleotides of the invention.